

Adjournment of the Legislature.

After an unusually long session of nearly three months, the Legislature of North Carolina adjourned at nine o'clock on Monday night last, having passed thirty-eight Public Acts, fifty-eight Private Acts, and twenty-one Resolutions. The Captions of these several Acts and Resolutions are before us, and will be found in our paper to-day. The most important Acts, or at least such portions of them as may possess any interest to the State at large, or to this section of it, will appear in our columns at an early day.

Has the action of the Legislature reflected the wishes of the people? or has its course been such as to secure their confidence and respect? Would that we could answer these questions in the affirmative; or that we could join in a public plaudit, of "well done." But we cannot—we know that no such plaudit goes forth. We know that in many things, the action of the Legislature has not reflected the wishes of the people—nor its course secured their confidence and respect. And we know, too, that the Democratic party has been betrayed, divided, thwarted by self-seeking aspirants, and reckless disorganizers in its own ranks, whom it would be a gross scandal and injustice to the party longer to call Democrats. If the Democratic party be again betrayed by the same men, it will have only itself to blame.

In matters of this kind, and upon occasions like the present, it has been our rule to come out plainly and unmistakably in all cases. When we have seen our party strength endangered, our energies paralyzed, and our hard-won victories rendered fruitless by the action of a few rule-or-ruin politicians, duty to ourselves, to our principles, and to our position, have alike imperatively called upon us to cry aloud and spare not—to throw our influence, however feeble, into the scale of Democratic organization and Democratic faith. We have never yet failed to be sustained in such a course, but had the reverse been the case, we had none other to pursue—we have none other now.

Two years ago, Gov. Reid carried the State by twenty-seven hundred. In August last he carried it by twice that majority; and yet, in the former case, we secured a very decided Democratic majority in the Legislature; while, in August last, we barely secured a nominal majority of two. Why was this? Simply and solely from the prevalence of a spirit of disorganization. Simply and solely from a division of strength by ambitious aspirants, who were more willing to risk the great interests of the party, than to yield their own views of personal advancement. We would candidly ask, what is the use of having strength, if it is to be thus thrown away? What importance can we attach to the professions of those who testify, by their course, that they value their own little schemes far above the success of the principles they profess to advocate, or the objects they pretend to have in view.

When the Legislature met, it was felt by all that until a United States Senator should be elected little efficient progress would be made with other business. Then, if ever, it was necessary for the Democratic party to act in concert. With parties so closely balanced, it was folly to expect success without a perfect union of the party as one man. With but two majorities, there was not a vote to spare. An immense majority of the party, in caucus, centered upon Hon. James C. Dobbin, a Democrat beyond suspicion, and a gentleman beyond reproach, whose election would have been hailed with pleasure by his own party and received with respect and confidence even by his opponents. As the party candidate, he should have received the vote of every Democrat in both Houses. But he did not. Mr. Saunders secured a few votes for him, while he himself threw away his vote for Mr. Craig. Mr. Jas. B. Shepard got a vote or two for himself—the Whigs scattering upon these gentlemen for the purpose of disorganizing the regular Democratic party. Why did Mr. Cotten, Mr. Watson, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Love, and the other Democratic friends of Messrs. Saunders and Shepard refuse to vote for the regular choice of the party? and why did Mr. Saunders refuse to do so? Simply for the purpose of defeating the election of Mr. Dobbin—of thwarting the wishes of nineteen-twentieths of the party, in the hope of receiving the support of the Whig party, or of eventually forcing the 76 Democrats, who steadily and consistently voted for the nominee, to surrender to the five or six disorganizers who were acting against him and playing into the hands of his party opponents. At last, away towards the close, after the disorganization had been fully effected, and Mr. Saunders found that he could not get the Whigs to elect him, he came forward and backed out from a position which no good Democrat could have occupied for a single moment. About the last act of the drama was his election to the office of Judge by Whig votes. Verily he has his reward from the party to which his services in the late session have been rendered. To that party he should be left to look in future for promotion.

At one time Mr. Dobbin would have been elected had Mr. Watson voted for him, but he threw away his vote upon Mr. Shepard, whose confidential friend he is, and to whom he would not have so pertinaciously adhered had such course, been contrary to Mr. Shepard's wishes.

The result has been that no Senator has been elected—that the Legislature was a scene of squabbling almost from beginning to end—that much of the indispensable business of the session was hurried through at the very close—that many important matters have been totally neglected. That meritorious Democratic incumbents have been sacrificed, as in the case of Mr. Eaton, Attorney General, who was turned out by a Democratic Legislature to make room for Mr. Ransom, one of the bitterest electors on the Scott ticket!

It is not for us to say who shall, or who shall not, be read out of the Democratic party; but it is alike our duty and our right to trace the causes which have led to results which every Democrat must regret—to place the blame where it properly belongs, and to warn our people against wolves in sheep's clothing, who injure us ten times as much as they could possibly do by open and avowed opposition.

Our party is clearly in the majority throughout the State, but what will this avail us, if we are to be met by treachery at every point; by specious pretensions of individual independence—meaning, in plain English, a preference of self to principle or party. How can we guard against such a state of things in future, but by requiring that Democratic politicians shall be such in good faith or not at all; and that while every generous allowance shall be made for honest differences of opinion, no quarter shall be shown to the selfish machinations of the deliberate traitor, who would betray that party after whose honors and offices he aspires.

Everything might have been done in half the time had the question of a U. S. Senator been disposed of at once, as it might have been, but for the intrigues

ded to. But for fishy Democrats out of the Legislature, the Democratic majority in that body would have been as large as in 1850-51, and all intrigues been out of the question.

In another point, and one dear to the people of the State—a point which overrules all parties, and which, as our opponents themselves admit, is stronger than any man or party—we mean Equal Suffrage—the known wishes of the people have been set at naught. The whole responsibility of this matter rests with the Whigs, who could have easily passed the bill, but did not. It is simply nonsensical to talk of the Democratic party being responsible for its failure, because one Democrat did not vote for it; and all the Whig laudations of Mr. Edwards' course are so much blarney, and can hardly count otherwise than as censures of that gentleman, since their praises are elicited by his opposition to his own party. Well informed gentlemen assure us that there is a majority of the people of Warren county favorable to the Equal Rights of the poor man, and that Mr. Edwards himself is solely responsible for his own course, and cannot justly shield himself under instructions. Neither was Free Suffrage made an issue in the canvass for election, since Mr. Edwards was absent at the time.

It may be proper to remark, in order to avoid anything like misconception, that the great body of the party—the Democrats proper—are above reproach in the whole affair, and if their efforts have failed of success, the responsibility of such failure is not to be laid at their doors. It is a matter of pride and pleasure to us to know that the Democratic members from this section of the state, have uniformly been found acting in concert with their party, and in good faith towards its nominees, having little say for that cant which would "reform the party back to the days of Jefferson" by ignoring its principles, defying its organization and opposing its nominees, at the dictation and for the benefit of certain disorganizers, who, in the usefulness of their devotion, only want all the offices and modestly content themselves with expecting the great body of the party to yield reverential submission to the behests of an insignificant minority. And this, no doubt, the disorganizers aforesaid would call "independence!"

We have now discharged a most ungrateful task, but one from which we could not shrink. Few men are more sensitive to the opposition and ill-will which the performance of such duties entails. Few men feel more keenly the estrangement of any friends, or are more willing or more pleased to waive any personal feelings and to welcome all who are willing to act with us in good faith—however much they may have at any time been led astray by artful misrepresentations or temporary imprudence; but at the same time, none can regard with a more thorough contempt the secret insinuation, or the open malice, of those who willfully torture our motives or misrepresent our conduct. Seeking no office—asking no patronage beyond the price of subscription, we may have at any time been led astray by artful misrepresentations, or temporary imprudence; but at the same time, none can regard with a more thorough contempt the secret insinuation, or the open malice, of those who willfully torture our motives or misrepresent our conduct. Seeking no office—asking no patronage beyond the price of subscription, we may have at any time been led astray by artful misrepresentations, or temporary imprudence; but at the same time, none can regard with a more thorough contempt the secret insinuation, or the open malice, of those who willfully torture our motives or misrepresent our conduct.

We now turn in conclusion to another matter which is a good deal discussed, namely: the power of the Governor to appoint a Senator.

Section 3rd of the first article of the Constitution of the United States, after providing that two Senators from each State shall be chosen by the Legislature thereof; and shall be classified, so that one-third of the members of the Senate may be chosen every second year, says:

"And if vacancies occur by resignation or otherwise, during the recess of the Legislature of any State, the Executive thereof may make temporary appointments until the next meeting of the Legislature, which shall then fill such vacancies."

The vacancy from this State will not occur until the expiration of Mr. Mangum's term on the 4th of March next, and it would certainly seem that the phrase "or otherwise," is broad enough to provide for a vacancy occurring by the failure of the Legislature to elect, although it strikes us that such has not been the understanding or usage. We are not aware of there being any authoritative precedent on the point. None, at least, which meets this particular case, although we believe one somewhat similar was decided against the power when exercised by the Governor of Connecticut.

Without being guilty of any disrespect to the year of our Lord 1852, we may venture to remark that the old fellow is very essentially on his last legs; his constitution is broken, and his days and hours numbered, and we have the authority of that erudite and reliable work, Turner's N. C. Almanac, for saying that he cannot survive the week.

Peace to his ashes, if he have any, which we somewhat doubt; he was considerable of a year in his own way, and had a day more than usual, from which remarkable circumstance, we draw the inference that he was a Leap Year, and favorable to "Woman's Rights." How far the ladies have availed themselves of the privileges pertaining unto the occasion, deponent sayeth not, leaving all such knotty, intricate, puzzling and abstruse questions to be answered by him of the Herald. We will venture to assert that nobody hath abducted that beautiful youth; nor can it be said, with any regard to truth, that "the free, unobscured condition" of the Journalman hath been in the slightest danger.

1852 has been a year of eloquence, patriotism and soft-soup. Hasty soup and hot punch have been in demand, and marvellous things have been transacted in and out of the Legislature of North Carolina, which, of itself, has been a marvellous queer thing, like Trinculo and Caliban in the *Tempest*. "Four legs and two voices; a most delicate monster!" His forward voice now is to speak well of his friend; his backward voice is to utter foul speeches and detraction.

We say, "Father Time," and paint him as an old fellow with a scythe, and a beard half a yard long; and yet, speak of things being in the womb of time, which is something of a contradiction; but however, without any further discussion, we will take it for granted that 1853 is still in the womb of time, with a career before him very much like his predecessors. He will get old, and we and all of us who live, will grow older, with the exception of young ladies of "a certain age," who never grow older. All these things and more will happen. So mote it be.

INQUESTS.—Coroner J. J. CONOLEY held an inquest over the body of a white man, name unknown, at the plantation of Mr. Armand D. Young, on the Cape Fear River, on the 27th inst., supposed to be a man who was accidentally drowned from on board the Steamer Southerner, some three or four weeks ago. Verdict in accordance.

He also held an inquest over the body of a negro boy, named David, the property of James Grant, who recently got drowned from the capsizing of a small boat. Verdict in accordance.

We learn that a dead body has been for several days fastened to a stake in Brunswick River, nearly opposite Dr. Everett's Mill, to which fact we are requested to call the attention of the authorities of Brunswick county.

Masonic Celebration.—The Masonic Fraternity celebrated the anniversary of St. John's Day in the usual manner. The turn out was large, and highly creditable to the order. The address by JAMES BANKS, Esq., was worthy of the occasion, which was no doubt a pleasure.

Slavery in California.

At different times we have taken occasion to express our belief that the introduction of slave labor into California, was among the possibilities, not to say the probabilities, of the future. Recent events have gone far to confirm us in our views.

A recent number of the New York Evening Post, abolition, publishes a whining letter from a California correspondent, expressing great alarm at what he is pleased to call a "preconcerted secret movement all over the State (California)" by which Southern pro-slavery men, for both branches of the Legislature, have been quietly foisted upon the two political parties, so that there is a large majority of such elected to the House, and so many to the Senate, as, but for the old members holding over, to make a majority there also. Thus while there is in California a large majority of people from the free States and opposed to enslaving the States, Southern intrigues have, as usual, by machinations and concert of action, succeeded in obtaining (probably) the control of both Houses of the Legislature.

The writer portrays the frightful "plot" as follows:

In this State the counties inhabited by the native Californians, (being those lying south of this city) conceiving themselves aggrieved by the details of the State government—especially by the heavy taxation—are deeply discontented and strenuous for reform. This they hope to obtain, through the medium of a convention to revise the Constitution, either by a division of the State, or some alteration of the obnoxious constitutional provisions. These counties are, also, to a man, opposed to enslaving the State, yet, such is their dissatisfaction that they will join the pro-slavery men for a convention.

Add to this the defects more forcibly than real, inseparable from a constitution framed as ours was, and you can imagine that notwithstanding a strong anti-slavery sentiment in the State, a bill may be forced through the Legislature, submitting to the people the question of a Convention.

The question which will not be submitted at the general election in September 1853, (for fear of a full vote and a defeat to the scheme) but at a special election called in a few weeks after the passage of the bill, and before the people at large can have half understood the question. Thus it may be that a second time, in spite of the majority of the voters of the State, a vote will be extorted in favor of a Convention.

The Convention called—what then? Delegates are next elected; and in the general scramble the pro-slavery faction—compact, determined, with full concert of action all over the State, and not at all particular, as to means—may succeed in electing a strong body of delegates. If still, the sentiment of the State against introducing slavery, especially in the mines, should be found too strong, the strategy will be resorted to. Slavery is to be excluded from the mines, and admitted into the agricultural portions of the State! [As though a law should be passed confining emancipation or the cholera to the valley and plains, and forbidding it in the mountains.] Then some few spurious provisions are to be introduced, which are to be accepted, and the counties on the subject of taxation, &c., and the whole instrument, thus hocuspussed, is to be presented in a lump, to be voted for at another special election, in the hope that taking the good with the bad, and by another concerted movement among the pro-slavery men—the amended Constitution may pass through, and California reduced to the level of Arkansas, Texas and Mississippi.

The unfortunate abolition correspondent of the Post threatens, upon the establishment of slavery in California, to up stakes and come back to New York, after which distressing event, the California State Government must inevitably fall to pieces; or, if it should survive the loss of such a tremendously good member, it must eventually be crushed beneath the righteous indignation of the Post. Seriously, though, the probabilities are very strong in favor of some modification of the provisions of the Constitution with reference to slavery.

The almost total suspension of public business on account of the Christmas holidays deprives us of the usual amount of news from abroad, and at the same time dispenses, in a great measure, with the necessity of remark. The letters of our Raleigh Correspondent give the Legislative proceedings up to the close. It will be seen that a bill has been passed re-districting the State for members of Congress. We have not had time to give the new scheme a careful examination, but from a hurried glance it would seem that the districts are pretty evenly distributed between parties. This district stands nearly as before, with the exception that we lose Onslow and gain Richmond. We must confess that we regret this change. We have been so long connected politically with the people of Onslow that we cannot contemplate even this amount of separation without regret.

On Saturday, a Superior Court Judge was also elected. Hon. R. M. Saunders, it will be seen, received the vote of all the Whigs, and some few Democrats, and was thus chosen over Hon. Asa Biggs, who was regarded as the regular Democratic candidate for that office. Comment is unnecessary.

The Legislature adjourned at nine o'clock on Monday night. No Senator chosen.

Correspondence of the Journal.

NEWPORT, R. I., Dec. 21, 1852.

MY DEAR SIR—I have been so much occupied since the election of our new President, that I have not had time to congratulate you upon the glorious and "overwhelming" victory that has crowned our efforts in sustaining a good cause and good men.

The Whigs have constantly asserted that our leader was "nothing and nobody"—that being the case, they must acknowledge that our cause and our principles are "something." They must admit that "honesty" in political affairs is in everything else, "is the best policy." When the great Democratic party has to put on two faces and join with traitors to the Union in order to succeed in electing a President, I hope it too will be overwhelmingly defeated! Since the election (a few days ago) I had the pleasure of meeting the President elect, and had a long conversation with him upon many things; and as he knew I had no office to solicit, he was perfectly free to speak of men and principles.

The General is not less a Democrat now than he was before the election. I have known him by reputation from my earliest recollection of politics, and have known him as a most uncompromising Democrat—not bigoted, but open and generous as the day—and as firm in the advocacy and maintenance of his principles as the granite of his native hills. I spoke to him of the constant misrepresentation of his course on the abolition question, especially in your State; but remarked that the Democrats had appealed to his whole political life, and especially his action in overthrowing *Atwood* because of his "free-soilism." "Say to them," said he, "because he would not support the fugitive slave law!" We took the broad ground of maintaining that law or sinking in the attempt! We had rather be defeated fighting to sustain the constitution in all its parts, than be successful with principles that could not exist in every part of the Union. "Honesty, sir, open and true honesty, in politics as in other affairs of life, will ultimately receive its reward."

As to the Cabinet, none but the members of it will know anything about who will compose it until after the General goes to Washington. I think, doubt very much, Gen. Pierce himself knows who will come to the Cabinet yet. He is probably looking about to see and make a proper selection. The General spoke very kindly of our friend Dobbin, and expressed a strong hope that the Democrats would eventually unite upon him. He thought no Democrat could hesitate, under such circumstances,

lection of a Democrat, and Mr. Dobbin being so truly worthy of the place.

I am of opinion that the incoming administration will be decidedly the most popular since Gen. Jackson's time. I assure you there will be firmness enough—justice entire—National rights and honor respected everywhere—no flinching, and no humbling of the flag; but a gradual and steady march to national power, wealth and freedom. The rights of the States respected—the Constitution triumphant! We shall soon see if my opinions are the correct ones.

FORT ADAMS, R. I., Dec. 20, '52.

MY DEAR FULTON: I see by the newspapers, that your good old town stands some chance of being left "off the road," when South Carolina completes her N. E. Railroad. This calls to my mind what I used to speak about to the Wilmingtonians years ago, viz:—The great mistake they made in not constructing their Northern road direct to Fayetteville—then to Raleigh, &c.; afterwards connecting themselves with Charleston by Railroad. Had they done this, instead of building a straight road for through travel, ere this there would have been a Railroad West from Fayetteville to tap the Upper Pee Dee or Yadkin, and so on West; and the Central N. C. Road would not have been built for many years to come, as there would have then been no necessity for it. Wilmington would have been the great depot for merchandise and produce for the whole Western Carolina; as you will observe that when one great line has been established, all others converge to and connect with it, provided that line is not very badly located. But this line would have been located in exactly the right place. I have traveled from Mecklenburg to Fayetteville, by way of Wadesboro, and I am perfectly certain that it is a far better route for a Railroad, than the circuitous Raleigh route, and to Greenville, had it been completed. There will be a Railroad through Fayetteville West, now in a few number of years than the good people on the route think for. You see at once, that this arrangement of the original Roads would have made Wilmington a large city in a few years.

What should she do now? I say do not let this session of your Legislature close, without obtaining a charter for a Railroad from Wilmington to Fayetteville;—capital is now abundant; you can get the stock taken North if necessary; but you must begin, or you are cut off. Let the North Eastern Road from Charleston be first built; and you lose the initiative, and retard the growth of your town twenty-five to fifty years. Those who live twenty-five miles from the harbor, and who have no direct communication direct from Wilmington to the West! But time is money—money is power! Awake in time, or you lose the golden advantages of your position on the map. Very truly, yours,

NORTH CAROLINA LEGISLATURE.

From our Regular and Special Correspondents.

RALEIGH, Saturday, Dec. 25th—10 1/2 P. M.

DEAR JOURNAL: The Legislature, for to-day, has just adjourned; all things are quiet, and on Monday morning, it is confidently believed, they will break up in order, and go to their respective homes. A very large amount of business has been done this day. R. M. Saunders was elected Superior Court Judge, over Hon. Asa Biggs. Some few Democrats voted for Mr. Saunders, with all the Whigs for him; so, you plainly see, he has received his reward, for his service done the Whig party this session.

The following is the plan of the Eight Congressional Districts, adopted by the Legislature: First District, composed of Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Gates, Chowan, Hertford, Northampton, Halifax, Martin, Bertie, Washington and Tyrrell.

Second District—Hyde, Beaufort, Pitt, Craven, Jones, Lenoir, Wayne, Greene, Edgecombe, Onslow and Carteret.

Third District—New Hanover, Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Sampson, Cumberland, Robeson, Duplin, Richmond.

Fourth District—Wake, Franklin, Warren, Granville, Orange, Nash and Johnston.

Fifth District—Person, Caswell, Alamance, Chatham, Randolph, Guilford, Moore, Montgomery.

Sixth District—Stokes, Forsyth, Rockingham, Davidson, Davie, Yadkin, Surry, Iredell, Alexander, Ashe.

Seventh District—Catawba, Gaston, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Cabarrus, Union, Anson, Stanly, Cleveland.

Eighth District—Wilkes, Watauga, Caldwell, Burke, Rutherford, McDowell, Henderson, Buncombe, Yancey, Haywood, Macon, Cherokee, Jackson and Madison.

The following is the arrangement of the fifty Senatorial Districts:

A bill to lay off the State into fifty Senatorial Districts, as follows:

1st. Pasquotank and Perquimans; 2nd, Camden and Currituck; 3rd, Gates and Chowan; 4th, Tyrrell and Hyde; 5th, Northampton; 6th, Hertford; 7th, Bertie; 8th, Washington; 9th, Albemarle; 10th, Edgemore; 11th, Pitt; 12th, Beaufort; 13th, Craven; 14th, Carteret and Jones; 15th, Greene and Lenoir; 16th, New Hanover; 17th, Duplin; 18th, Onslow; 19th, Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus; 20th, Cumberland; 21st, Sampson; 22nd, Wayne; 23rd, Johnston; 24th, Wake; 25th, Nash; 26th, Franklin; 27th, Warren; 28th, Granville; 29th, Orange; 30th, Orange; 31st, Alamance; 32nd, Randolph; 33rd, Chatham; 34th, Moore and Montgomery; 35th, Richmond and Robeson; 36th, Anson and Union; 37th, Guilford; 38th, Caswell; 39th, Rockingham; 40th, Mecklenburg; 41st, Davidson; 42nd, Cabarrus; 43rd, Rowan and Davie; 44th, Asa, Davidson; 45th, Stokes and Forsyth; 46th, Ashe, Surry, Alexander; 47th, Wilkes, Iredell and Caldwell; 48th, Lincoln, Gaston and Catawba; 49th, Rutherford and Cleveland; 50th, Buncombe, Henderson, Yancey and Madison; 51st, Haywood, Macon, Cherokee and Jackson.

A motion in the House, to vote for U. S. Senator, was postponed indefinitely.

Monday night, I will give you the closing scene, and I hope it may be a pleasant one. W.

RALEIGH, Dec. 27, 1852.

DEAR JOURNAL.—The two Houses of the General Assembly adjourned to-night at a quarter to nine o'clock. The House has been waiting on the Senate nearly the whole of the day, while the Senate has labored extremely hard in order to get through with the public business, which they have accomplished.

Mr. Baxter (re-elected, as you know he was, to the Speakership of the House) made but a very short response to the resolution of thanks, tendered him unanimously by the House, which he declined to accept. Hon. Weldon N. Edwards, in his response to the Senate, was quite eloquent and feeling. I seldom shed tears—nor did I, to-night—but, there were many wet eyes sitting within the sound of his voice, when he said, "it is not reasonable to suppose that we shall all meet again, and I wish each of you, a speedy and pleasant passage to your families, a long and happy life." Here he paused—the old veteran looked sad. Raising his head he resumed—"it only remains now, for me to declare this Senate adjourned, sine die." They parted friends—whatever may have been the bitterness of party strife, I know the hearts of Senators were right—or how could they part with "sin die" and good bye?

And now, Messrs. Editors, allow me to take my leave of the kind readers of the Journal, who have followed my pen for nearly three months; it is with feelings of no ordinary emotion, that I lay down the task of writing a daily letter for their edification and instruction—nothing more, however, than the passing events of the day. I feel, that with many signatures, and a large family—indeed, it seems to me, that these friends have become intimate acquaintances; and, at parting, I would respectfully ask their permission for the announcement of my best wishes for their happiness and welfare. And now, it only remains for me to say, that this is the last number of them will read from the pen of W.—till next time.

ACCIDENT.—A negro man, the property of JOHN A. SANDERS, Esq., had his left hand shot off on Christmas day, from the accidental discharge of a gun.

93-THE Treasurer of the State has paid \$100,000 to Central Rail Road. The first instalment of the \$2,000,000 subscription.

ARKANSAS U. S. SENATOR.—On the 10th inst., Hon. Wm. C. Schastain, was re-elected by the Arkansas Legislature to the U. S. Senate, for the six years from 1853 to 1859, when his present term will expire.

Free Suffrage, Mr. Edwards.

The Raleigh Register, speaking of the defeat of the Free Suffrage bill in the Senate, makes following declaration:

"It is well known that the Senator from Warren, (Mr. Edwards), was elected on the ground of his opposition to this measure. He and his friends, no doubt as true 'Democrats' as any in the State, made that the main issue in the campaign."

Now, with all deference to the opinion of the Register, we must say that in the above assertion, he is mistaken. That the friends of Mr. Edwards who first started in the movement to solicit him to become a candidate for the Senate, did it because of his known opposition to Free Suffrage, we do not deny, but this was not the case with all who supported him in the election, a letter was gotten up by anti-Free Suffrage Democrats and Whigs, soliciting Mr. Edwards to become a candidate for the Senate. This letter was circulated throughout the country, and are known that many persons signed it who are and always have been strongly in favor of Free Suffrage. Why they did it we cannot say; but it is so. After Gen. Hawkins became a candidate, (which he did upon strong solicitation and contrary to the expectation of a great many,) there were those who agreeing with him upon the question of Free Suffrage, yet who were not in favor of Mr. Edwards, and considered themselves pledged to the support of Mr. Edwards, after having solicited him to become a candidate.

It is very certain that there was no direct and open issue made on the subject during the campaign; for Mr. Edwards was out of the County during the whole time, and consequently did not discuss the question before the people and his friends, in urging his claims, or in opposing the measures proposed to Free Suffrage, a reason for his election on all whom they approached. These things being so, we feel warranted in saying that Mr. Edwards was not elected "on the ground of his opposition to the measure," and hence the assertion we have made heretofore, that "Warren County—even the Freeholders of Warren County—are in favor of Free Suffrage."

We may, it is true, be asked a question in regard to the feeling of the freeholders in the County on the subject, but there is one fact upon which we know we are not mistaken, and that is, that several persons who signed the letter of Mr. Edwards, asking him to become a candidate, and who afterwards voted for him, openly professed to be in favor of Free Suffrage, and some of them went so far as to propose holding a meeting some day after the election to instruct him to vote for it in the Senate when it should come up.—Warrenton News.

From the Richmond Enquirer.

The Vice Presidency.

Wm. R. King, Esq., has resigned the position of President of the U. S. Senate, in consequence of continued illness, and has left a question arising as to who will supply his place, until he is able to resume his duties. We observe that some Whig papers argue that, should Mr. King die before the votes are officially counted on the second Monday in February next, the day fixed for counting the votes, it would then devolve on the Senate to select from the list of electors the Vice President, and as no other person has votes but Mr. King and Mr. Graham, and the votes for the former being virtually cancelled by his death, the Senate would have to declare Mr. Graham the Vice President elect—he being the only living person who has any votes.

This is a very far-fetched conclusion—though we admit that had Mr. King died and with a month of the Electoral College, as was at one time apprehended, the above application of the Constitution would have doubtless been correct. But the facts of the case are now materially different. The provisions of the Constitution are as follows:

"The electors shall meet in their respective States, and vote by ballot for President and Vice President; one of whom at least, shall not be a inhabitant of the same State as themselves. They shall name in the ballots the person voted for as President, and in distinct ballots, the person voted for as Vice President; and they shall make distinct lists of all persons voted for as President, and of all persons voted for as Vice President, and of the number of votes for each; which lists they shall sign and certify, and transmit sealed to the seat of government of the United States, directed to the President of the Senate. The President of the Senate shall, in the presence of the Senate and House of Representatives, open all the certificates, and the votes shall then be counted. Ke."

"The person having the greatest number of votes as Vice President shall be Vice President, if such number shall be a majority of the whole number of electors appointed; and if no person have a majority, then from the two highest numbers of votes the Senate shall choose the Vice President. A quorum for the purpose shall consist of two-thirds of the whole number of Senators, and a majority of the whole number shall be necessary to a choice."

In the language of the Baltimore Patriot, a Whig paper, Mr. King was elected Vice President on the first Wednesday of December, 1852, by the electors of the State of Maryland, and voted for President and Vice President. What the Senate has to do now, is to open the votes thus made, and ascertain who is elected. There is nothing said in the Constitution about the person elected "dying before" the day fixed for the counting of the votes, nor does the language of the constitution admit the construction, that in such a case the votes cast are to be declared void.

If Mr. King should die before the fourth of March, it would be the case, as far as his successor is concerned, as if he had died after. The presiding officer of the Senate, Mr. Atchison, will be, by virtue of that office, the Vice President, with the same power as the President of the Senate, in the event of the death of Gen. Taylor, and the transfer of Mr. Fillmore to the office of President, was elected the presiding officer of the Senate.

Another inquiry has been started out of the probable death of Mr. King, and that is, who would succeed Gen. Pierce, as President, if he should not live out the term of his office. The Constitution refers to Congress to provide by law for this contingency. They accordingly passed a law, which declared that, in the event of the death of both the President and Vice President, the presiding officer of the Senate first, and if there be no presiding officer, then the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall act as President, till an election by the people can be held to supply the vacancy. If the death occurs two months before the first Wednesday in December, succeeding, then the election shall be held in that year, but if not, then the year after; provided, however, the term of the deceased President does not expire on the fourth of March next succeeding his death, in which case provision is to be made for an immediate election. The law is silent as to how long the President, so elected by law, shall continue to hold the office, and the conclusion, therefore, seems to be necessary, that he will hold it for four years, the terms fixed by the Constitution. So if it should occur that both the President and Vice President should die in office, or by resignation or otherwise, their duties, there would be a change in the year in which these elections are now fixed to be held.

Richard M. Johnson, chosen in 1837, is the only Vice President who has been elected by the Senate, in consequence of no choice by the Electoral College. Two Vice Presidents, both under Madison, have died in office, viz: George Clinton, chosen with President Madison in 1808, died April 20th, 1812, aged 73; Elbridge Gerry, chosen with Madison in 1812, died November 23, 1814, aged 66 years.

A DEMOCRATIC NIGHT.—To see the President elect of the United States marching on foot through the streets, with the mud ankle deep, following to the grave an old and esteemed companion in arms. This sight was beheld in Boston on Monday, and elicited unreserved expressions of admiration from crowds of citizens. Among the many sorrowing mourners at the funeral of our late friend, Dr. Justin S. Stevens, we believe none were more sincere than Gen. Franklin Pierce. He was accompanied by Major Lally, Major Pitman, General Chas. G. Smith, Captain Grafton, of the 3d Infantry, and Lieut. Glicking, who were all attached to the 9th regiment in Mexico, of which Dr. Stevens was the surgeon.—Boston Times.

The steamer *Empire City* has arrived at New Orleans, bringing Havana dates to the 19th instant. She reports that the British frigate *Pesta* arrived at Havana on the 19th, with the slave schooner *Venus*, and two other slavers as prizes; and that much excitement

The Condition of Mexico.

Col. Ramsey read an interesting paper before the American Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, at its monthly meeting held on Tuesday evening of last week. It was announced that this essay would be devoted to showing the best route for opening an inter-oceanic canal through Mexico, but the greater part of it consisted of a description of that country, the manners and condition of the people, and the position of the Government. Col. Ramsey said:

"If there is any State as to which the American public knows little, it is Mexico at the present moment. Since Mexico has been in the possession of the Spaniards there never was any period in which it has been in a more prosperous condition than now.—Its mineral wealth has been developed to a greater extent, and agriculture is receiving an attention from which the agriculturists of the United States might receive lessons, and the manufactures never were known to be so productive or prosperous. The quantity of machinery imported into Mexico now far surpasses that of any former time. The entire country has the appearance of prosperity. In the city of Mexico we see the public buildings and the palaces embellished; the churches are newly painted and adorned, and the streets newly paved. Large and new places for dancing, no longer the famous bull-baiting horse, the greatest work of art in America, has been removed from within the old University to the plazas, to the distance of a mile, in order to adorn them."